



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

**Testimony of State Representative Patricia Widlitz**

**HB 5255, AAC Municipal Mandate Relief**

Representative Sharkey, Senator Coleman and members of the Planning and Development Committee:

My name is Representative Pat Widlitz of the 98th District which includes the towns of Guilford and Branford. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 5255, AAC Municipal mandate relief. This proposed legislation addresses some of the concerns expressed by the elected leaders of our municipalities as they struggle to balance their budgets.

I respectfully request that you consider adding a section to the bill that would allow towns to postpone the scheduled 2012 revaluation for a period of one year. This was done for revaluations scheduled for 2008, 2009 and 2010 in previous legislation. The expense to our towns to satisfy the revaluation mandate is significant and increasingly difficult to finance in these challenging economic times.

Guilford's First Selectman, Honorable Joseph Mazza, has requested this amendment to the proposed language. The Town of Guilford budgets funds in each of the years preceding revaluation to manage the expense of the scheduled revaluations. However, given budget constraints due to depressed economic conditions the Town is having difficulty meeting that financial goal. Allowing additional time to budget those funds would relieve some of the pressure on that budgeting process.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.